

# Making Waves.

THE NATIONAL PUBLICATION OF  
THE SURFRIDER FOUNDATION

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# TIDE CHARTS

## TRACKING THE EBB AND FLOW OF COASTAL ENVIRONMENTALISM



SPENCERFINN.COM

The array of up to 18 spines on the top of the lionfish can deliver a painful, sometimes nauseating—though not deadly—sting.



CROPWATCH.UINL.EDU

Could crop residue help us ease the suffocation of our oceans or just cause more damage?



NEW SCIENTIST

One man's quest cross the Atlantic in a human-propelled submarine could end up a boon for marine science too.

### NEW KING OF THE REEF JUNGLE

(LOW)

Lionfish (considered an invasive species in the US) are wreaking havoc in South Atlantic waters. They're native to the Indian and South Pacific oceans, where fish such as sharks, eels and large groupers keep them in check. However, in Atlantic waters the locals haven't evolved to be wary of them so lionfish quickly dominate the reefs they colonize. A 2008 study indicated a single lionfish on a small patch of reef in the Bahamas could wipe out nearly 80 percent of native fishes in just five weeks. Lionfish are believed to have made their way into these parts via the aquarium trade.

### BALES OF CROP RESIDUE TO REDUCE CO2 POLLUTION?

(LOW)

Take 30 percent of global crop residues—the stalks and such left after harvesting—turn that into bales and then sink them into the ocean and what do you have? A new way to reduce the build up of global carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by up to 15 percent a year, say some experts. However, at what price to our ocean environment? Organisms living in the ocean sediments where the bales fall will no doubt be affected to start.

A separate but related British experiment was recently halted due to environmental concerns. Scientists were attempting to fertilize the ocean with iron sulphate to stimulate the growth of plankton (which in turn would potentially take in carbon dioxide from the atmosphere).

Somehow dumping more things into our ocean just doesn't seem like the best solution to help save our environment, but scientists are exploring any and every option at this point. Stay tuned.

### HUMAN-PROPELLED SUBMARINE TO CROSS ATLANTIC

(HIGH)

An inventor from Georgia, USA and a marine biologist from West Chester University in Pennsylvania have teamed up to attempt something pretty incredible. They will try to cross the Atlantic Ocean in a human-propelled submarine. Inventor Ted Ciamillo plans to pedal nearly 2,000 nautical miles from the Cape Verde islands to Barbados at a depth of around six and a half feet. He will surface at night to sleep under a tent erected on top of the sub. The body of the 16-foot-long vessel has a stainless steel frame, a polycarbonate shell and a dolphin-fin propulsion system made from aluminum and titanium. The Lumocet is undergoing sea trials and the voyage is set to begin in November.

# Making Waves

The Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches, for all people, through conservation, activism, research and education.

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109 victories since 1/06. The Surfrider Foundation is striving to win 150 environmental campaigns by 2010. For a list of these victories please go to: [www.surfrider.org/whoweare6.asp](http://www.surfrider.org/whoweare6.asp)

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# Value of A Beach

The wild economic ride we're all on is causing us to adopt a new set of lenses to look at the world; this is perhaps the single largest positive result to come from the global economic crisis.

Just a few years ago the dollar (or your local currency) didn't carry the weight it does now. For example, you were probably more willing to buy a car or a \$4 cup of coffee than you might be today. Consumer spending seemed to be on an endless upward trajectory. Spending seemed to live outside the laws of gravity and (looking back with 20/20 hindsight) common sense. Over the last six months, the prices of housing, gas and other goods have fluctuated to the point of confusing us. This brings me to the subject of value.

Value [val-yoo] –noun

1. Relative worth, merit, or importance: the value of a college education; the value of a queen in chess.
2. Monetary or material worth, as in commerce or trade: This piece of land has greatly increased in value.
3. The worth of something in terms of the amount of other things for which it can be exchanged or in terms of some medium of exchange.

Origin: 1275–1325; ME < OF, n. use of fem. ptp. (cf. valuta) of valoir < L valere to be worth

Source: *Dictionary.com*

Time is the most valuable thing in my opinion as it outweighs money, status, worth and everything else. Nothing is as scarce as a minute of our lives.

An extension of this idea is what we do with our time and the value we gain from doing it. Here is where Surfrider Foundation comes in.

What is the value of going skiing or going to the movies? How do those values compare with the value of walking along your favorite beach or surfing your home break? The challenge to these questions is that the latter examples, many times, are assigned a value of zero since they are offered for “free.”

I was reminded of this comparison the other day when I was helping some out-of-town friends with options for their family vacation in Southern California. The family of four could buy a 3-Day Disneyland pass for \$640, or they could spend a day at the beach “for free.” They chose the beach, and I spent a few hours with them and noticed how the entire family became closer, having an absolute ball in the water and leaving with sand in their toes and smiles across their faces. Spending a day at the beach was “free.”

The truth is, nothing is free. Everything has a cost. Sometimes that cost equates to currency, sometimes it equates to our time and resources.

All of us, including you, that support Surfrider Foundation, believe that our oceans, waves and beaches should be accessible for all people to enjoy, and should also be protected. All of us invest a part of ourselves in that idea. You may be a member and invest your money in this idea. You may also invest your time, energy and expertise in your local Chapter. Whatever your investment, you make it because in your mind, our coasts hold value.

We appreciate those contributions as it enables us to keep the lights on and make a difference all over the world. More than that, we appreciate the fact that you have associated real value in our mission. One of the crispest examples of the value we offer can be found in the 109 victories we've won over the last three years. The collective value we associate with Surfrider is literally the power of this entire effort.

So as we continue to weave our way through these murky and squishy economic times, let's keep it in the front of our minds that our coasts have a value that is priceless. They should not be marginalized or purchased, but should be appreciated for their pure, natural beauty.

Let's also remember that the return (enjoyment) on investment (protection) equation is among the strongest in our lives. Now close this newsletter and get some sand in your toes. Go experience “free” in more ways than one.

—Jim Moriarty, Chief Executive Officer

# WE SAVED

On December 18<sup>th</sup> the holidays came early for beach lovers around the world, especially those that hold a special place in their hearts for Trestles. The U.S. Department of Commerce announced that it would uphold the California Coastal Commission's ruling that found the Transportation Corridors Agencies' (TCA) proposed extension of the 241 Toll Road inconsistent with the California Coastal Act. And with that, the famous surf break and surrounding state park was rescued from a poorly planned project that would have wreaked havoc on this precious resource.

Although this happy day and paramount decision were the culmination of years and years of grassroots advocacy efforts, it is certainly 2008 that will mark the year when everything came together to "Save Trestles." That is because it's the year that two important hearings were held to decide Trestles' and the surrounding San Onofre State Beach's fate.

## Februray 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008

The Place: Wyland Hall at the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

The Purpose: the California Coastal Commission hearing to evaluate whether the toll road extension project should receive consistency certification.

The Vibe: Incredible!

State Park and Trestles supporters turned out in droves to make their voice heard and oppose the 241 toll road extension. The reported total number of people in attendance ranged from 2,500 to 5,000 depending upon which paper you read, but either way that still meant that a heck of a lot of people turned up to "Save Trestles." Groms took the day off of school to attend (with their parents' permission of course), surf industry execs shuttled people in on their company buses, hard-core "greenies" rode their bikes or took the train in and every day "Joes" took a hard-earned day off of work to come down and protect that which was precious to them... Trestles. It was amazing. After 15 hours of testimony, the Commission determined by a vote of 8-2, that the plan submitted by the TCA was inconsistent with California coastal law and the room erupted! We had won the fight but would we win the war?

## Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008

The Place: O'Brien Hall at the Del Mar Fairgrounds (a bigger hall to accommodate more people).

The Purpose: The public hearing related to the TCA's appeal to the U.S. Department of Commerce to OVERRULE the decision by the California Coastal Commission.

The Vibe: A bit more nerve-racking.

CRAIG COPOLLA



T. ARMSTRONG



C. MURPHY

Local support took on an organic vibe all its own.

Save Trestles supporters stayed well into the night long after opponents called it a day



# TRESTLES!

By Tracey Armstrong

Here we were again, same venue, same fight but would there be the same outcome? Even worse, we would have to wait months for an answer. Unlike the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, this was merely an opportunity for both sides to be heard and an actual decision on the appeal wouldn't be determined that evening. But still you showed up! Thousands and thousands of you showed up to keep fighting for Trestles... sitting again through ten-plus hours of testimony (this time in a fly-infested, hot expo room). And what was even more apparent by this time was that this was no longer just about protecting a great surf break, the fight to "Save Trestles" had become so much more. There was magic everywhere that day. From the speakers ranging in age from ten-to 92 who took to the podium, to the guys who held up signs that read: "live better, get barreled" opposed to "live better, build roads," to the lady from San Bernadino who drove 100 miles to save the San Mateo campgrounds where her family spent their annual family vacations... there was no shortage of emotional moments. But would it be enough? Many people drove home late that night wondering and only time would tell.

And so it came... the big decision on the appeal. Two months and 27 days later. In a release issued from the Department of Commerce, they "determined that there is at least one reasonable alternative to the project and that the project is not necessary in the interest of national security."

And that was that, we had won dang it. We had actually done it, "Saved Trestles!" Years of campaigning, protests, letter writing, raffles, paddle outs, shout outs... you name it. We had done it all. And it worked!

Our coastlines will always be threatened by development and the resulting pollution problems that come part and parcel with that. There will always be projects to question and Trestles may need saving again one day (unfortunately). But, if there is anything 2008 has shown it's that grassroots coastal activism is alive and well and together we can do anything. Here's to you! Thank you.

*Tracey is the Content Manager for the Surfrider Foundation.*



BRANIM KARTUC



SCOTT HARRISON

Someone at the September hearing help up a dollar bill when toll road supporters spoke...it may have started a trend that day.

Surfrider Foundation's Chief Executive Officer, Jim Moriarty, at the February 6th hearing.



# 2008 MAKING WAVES CHAPTER AWARDS

## CHAPTER CAMPAIGN VICTORY OF THE YEAR—CLEAN WATER AT NYE CREEK- MARCH 2008

The Oregon Central Coast Chapter has worked since 2004 to clean up Nye Creek through a campaign of water testing, political pressure and media savvy. They first pointed out the fact that the ocean in front of the creek was polluted and making people sick. Through a water quality-monitoring program that went up the watershed, the Chapter was able to bring to light a number of problems with the city's storm water and sewage management systems. Through collaborative work and public pressure the City of Newport has now updated several important regulations and committed to infrastructure improvements, as well as restoration of the creek and educational kiosks. This will all lead to clean and healthy water in Nye Creek and the nearby surf.

More info: [www.surfrider.org/centralcoastoregon/](http://www.surfrider.org/centralcoastoregon/)



Nye Creek Park.

CHARLIE PLYBON



## TOP 4 CHAPTER CAMPAIGN SLOGANS

- Free the Montauk 8—Eastern Long Island Chapter
- \$33 for 33—Cape Fear, NC Chapter
- Restore the Shore (Sink the Breakwater)—Long Beach, CA Chapter
- Hold onto Your Butt—San Diego Chapter



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## CAMPAIGN TACTIC—CAPE FEAR CHAPTER ACCESS 33

Public Beach Access 33 in Wrightsville Beach, NC, which has been used by the public for over 40 years, was taken away from citizens when an adjacent property owner realized that the access was within his property line. The Town of Wrightsville Beach decided not to investigate alternatives for saving the public beach access. The closure of Beach Access No. 33 created the longest gap between accesses within the town. Through public pressure and petitioning, followed by negotiations with the Town and property owner Surfrider Foundation's Cape Fear Chapter was able to come to a compromise. With the Chapter's assistance the town purchased a permanent easement to keep Access 33 open. This agreement also avoided setting a dangerous precedent of closing a public beach access.

The residents of Wrightsville Beach enjoy beautiful views, spectacular sunsets and the occasional adjacent public access way.



## BEST USE OF NEW MEDIA— SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

The Web is an interactive, dynamic and rapidly changing communications medium and our San Diego Chapter has fully embraced this new media. Utilizing not only their Web site, the Chapter also communicates via Facebook, Myspace, LinkedIn, Coolmail, Blogs and YouTube video postings. The Chapter even has icarpool linked on their Web site so members can carpool to their general meetings. Along with other Surfrider Foundation Chapters, San Diego has utilized social networks as a means of encouraging civic involvement, online video as a means of informing the public and a Google search-minded approach to supply campaign and project information.



SURFRIDER FOUNDATION

## PERFORMANCE ACTIVISM—SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY & SAN DIEGO CHAPTERS

On Feb. 6, the California Coastal Commission voted 8-2 to deny the Transportation Corridor Agencies' (TCA) application for a Coastal Permit to build the Foothill South (Highway 241) toll-road extension. The South Orange County and San Diego Chapters in conjunction with Surfrider Foundation Global Headquarters turned out over 3,000 people to the hearing to oppose the 241 Toll Road Extension. See page 4 for more details.



Pictured Evan Cavuoto and Celeste Ferguson

## GET OUT THE FOAM!— SANTA CRUZ CHAPTER

Hot on the heels of Scotts Valley City Council's ban on polystyrene disposable food service ware—joining Santa Cruz and Capitola—the Santa Cruz Chapter held its first annual "Get Out the Foam!" event, which collected approximately 4000 CUBIC feet of foam packaging to be reused or recycled (as opposed to ending up in a land fill). That's the size of an Escalade folks! The Chapter plans on making this an annual event and has it timed perfectly for the winter holiday season when foam packaging runs rampant.



## TRESTLES NIGHTMARE HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY—SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

The campaign to "Save Trestles" saw quite a bit of media attention in 2008 so putting a new twist on such a high-profile battle was no small feat. The South Orange County Chapter did just that however with their killer "Nightmare at Trestles Halloween Bash." This event was a great example of the creativity and tenaciousness of a Chapter neck-deep in the decade-long battle to "Save Trestles." It was perfectly timed too since we were just coming off a huge rally and still awaiting a decision on the toll road development appeal. (See Page 4 for more details).



LOU LAZORA

## ROCK THE BRIDGE 2008/SAVE HAULOVER BEACH ACCESS—SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER

This South Florida Chapter has embarked upon a lengthy mission to regain access to a public beach, which had been closed indefinitely by developers and allowed to persist by the negligence of Bal Harbour Village and Miami-Dade County. While the battle for public beach access continues to play out in the court system, Surfrider activists took to the streets and held an epic "Rock The bridge" event that garnered widespread media attention and a turnout so big it truly did ROCK!



# CHAPTER NEWS

By Ed Mazzarella



DAVID WRIGHT



DAVID WRIGHT

The Mendocino Chapter tests the water on a bi-weekly basis at seven locations throughout the area, and in times of County funding shortfalls they have actually substituted for County employees.

One of the beautiful Mendo locals.

## WEST COAST

Around 2004, the Mendocino County Department of Environmental Health began water quality testing at selected areas frequented by recreational users. From a surfer's perspective, however, many of these test sites were mainly dive locations and were little used by surfers, and, additionally, testing was generally conducted only in summer when there's little swell. With this in mind, the **Mendocino Chapter** proposed additional test sites to the County—beaches that are primarily used by surfers and beach goers—and proposed to increase the sampling period into the winter months. Since funding is always a problem for the small county, the Chapter proposed to conduct the additional testing on a volunteer basis by Mendocino Chapter members. Thus the Mendocino Chapter Blue Water Task Force was created.

Since 2006, their stout and intrepid team (**Victoria Kraus**, **Jackie Dooley**, and **Jack Coulumbe**) has collected water samples (*Enterococcus*, *E. Coli*, and Total Coliform) testing on a bi-weekly basis at seven locations throughout Mendocino County, and in times of County funding shortfalls they have actually substituted for County employees—all on their own time. The Mendocino Chapter's Blue Water Task Force is a great example of volunteerism in support of the community.

**Bruce McDermott** and his crew from Saatchi & Saatchi LA held their Good Day—a day to give back to the environment. Over 31 Saatchi & Saatchi employees gathered on a Thursday morning at River Jetty's in Newport Beach, Calif. and collected nearly 300 pounds of beach trash, ranging from cigarette butts and plastic bottle caps to broken skateboards, unclaimed boxer shorts,

hairpieces and an adjustable wrench (which had 1/2 inch of rust collected on it) just to name a few. Bruce brought a skim board for all to autograph after signing in and also took the treasures with him to add to their office collage. They snacked, ate lunch together, talked about some of things they found and how to prevent more from ending up at the beach.

On November 20th, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Board (RWQCB) directed their staff to draft a plan that would include revoking the City of Malibu's ability to manage commercial septic systems in the civic center, ban septic tanks that pose a risk to the already impaired Malibu Creek and Surfrider Beach, and a proposal for a wastewater treatment plant. This comes as great news given that contaminated groundwater and surface water from the civic center area has been a major contributor to the high levels of bacteria and harmful nutrients flowing into the surf zone at Surfrider Beach for decades.

The **West Los Angeles/Malibu Chapter** formed a Legacy Park Task Force in 2007 to advocate for improving water quality at iconic Surfrider Beach. Major thanks to all those who have supported the "Clean Water at the Bu" campaign this year. All those who signed the petition, attended the fundraisers, donated to the Chapter, or passed on the message for Clean Water at the Bu have played an important role in advocacy leading up to this charge from the RWCQB. The Chapter will be closely following this issue as the RWQCB develops their proposed plan. For additional info please visit: <http://sufriderwlam.org/cleanthebu> or e-mail: [taskforcecoord@surfriderwlam.org](mailto:taskforcecoord@surfriderwlam.org)





KENNETH & GABRIEL ADLEMAN

Malibu Beach near Leo Carrillo State Beach.

**Long Beach Chapter** supporter Chris Geer was the lucky high bidder for the surfboard auction last November. Proceeds from the sale of the board went towards the Chapter's Sink The Breakwater/Restore The Shore campaign. Greer is a Long Beach resident and reports he will hang the board in the room of a little kid to stoke his dreams of bringing waves back to Long Beach. Stone Brewing Co. recently presented our **San Diego Chapter** with a check for \$40,000! The donation is part of the proceeds from their annual anniversary celebration in August. Many thanks to the volunteers that helped to run the event that day and to the people that bought tickets to the event that also benefited other local non-profit groups.

In Los Osos, California, the **San Luis Obispo Chapter** is churning up the local waters as well! This fall, they co-authored the Statement of Key Environmental Issues (KEIS) for the Collection System of the Los Osos Wastewater Treatment Project (LOWWP) with the Santa Lucia Chapter of Sierra Club, SLO Green Build, Terra Foundation, Los Osos Sustainability Group and Northern Chumash Tribal Council. The key guiding principles

were adopted as the guiding principles for the LOWWP by the National Water Research Institute within their analysis of the project.

#### PACIFIC NORTHWEST

The Puget Sound Partnership's long awaited Action Agenda was finalized and released on December 1, 2008. After many months of planning, petitioning, and submitting draft agenda comments it is done. All five **Washington Chapters** participated in the process by partnering with People for Puget Sound and submitted hundreds of comment postcards collected from tabling events throughout spring and summer. To view the entire finalized document visit: [www.psp.wa.gov](http://www.psp.wa.gov)

Preparations are already under way for Clean Water Classic 2009. The event will take place in Westport, WA on the weekend of May 15-17. The sponsorship deadline to be included in t-shirt and poster printing is March 15, 2009. If you are interested in donating and/or volunteering please contact **Shannon Serrano** at: [sserrano@surfrider.org](mailto:sserrano@surfrider.org)

The **Northwest Straits (NWS) Chapter** pulled off their most successful Soundwaves Concert and Fundraiser yet. This year under the direction of volunteers **Anne Baker** and **Abigail McKinley** the event was a blast for all in attendance. NWS took over Boundary Bay Brewing Company in Bellingham and stage and tents were set up in the beer garden. The weather lent the biggest difficulty, but eventually eased up for all to enjoy the ten bands and the fashion show, which showcased 100 models in 100 different looks.

The money raised will be used to further the Blue Water Task Force (BWTF), Green Rides to Baker, Native Restoration project, as well as other outreach and education opportunities.

The Chapter has also seen huge success with its storm drain marking efforts. Of the 1000 markers provided and paid for by the city for the Chapter's use over half have already been installed.

The **Olympic Peninsula Chapter** has maintained one Sanican at the Elwha site and has been weighing the idea of placing additional Sanicans at various Olympic Peninsula locations. The Chapter worked to locate an agreeable spot at Twin Rivers. After much back and forth this past November all that work came to fruition. Volunteers spent the day cleaning the beach, filling potholes, laying concrete, and installing the second Sanican. Thank you **Eric** and **Sarah Waterkotte**, **Nick** and **Sally Parry**, **Arnold Schouten**, **Mike Wheeler**, **Kendra Parks**, **Tyson Dougherty**, and **Dave** and **Charlie Parks** for continuing all their hard work on beach access.

The **Seattle Chapter** has been busy with various speaking invites. Seattle Co-Chair **Abigail McCarthy** spoke at the High Dive's surf movie night in October. She spoke about the Sludge Campaign as well as the Action Agenda, which was a great intro for a showing of Puget Sound Partnership's "Shifting Baselines in the Puget Sound" prior to the surf flick. She followed that up with a brief speaking engagement at Teton Gravity Research's film premiere of "Under the Influence" at Neumos to a few hundred attendees and another opening speech at Kangaroo and Kiwi's premiere of "Surfing 50 States." Way to go Abi!

The Chapter also recently tabled for the Rise Above Plastics campaign at the Seattle Patagonia Store. All these appearances have led to new members showing up at Chapter meetings and they're excited to get involved.

The **South Coast Organizing Committee** held another successful beach cleanup at Westhaven State Park this past fall.



GORDANA KALEH

Chris Geer proudly shows off the "Sink The Breakwater" board.



The parking lot was full of surfers taking advantage of the early morning surf conditions, which was perfect timing for the Chapter to recruit them to clean the beaches once they had changed. Bag after bag was full of, you guessed it, plastic bottles, plastic bits and foam bits. The next most-seen item entering trash bags was cut up pieces of fishing nets.

The Chapter is currently monitoring a potential wind energy project in Grays Harbor County as well as continually keeping on top of wave energy projects being proposed in the area. You can get updates on the Outer Coast Blog that is set up for all these topics including the establishment of a Marine Resources Committee.  
<http://surfriderwashingtontonoutercoast.blogspot.com/>

The South Sound Organizing Committee also delivered their first Rise Above Plastics presentation at the University of Puget Sound. The evening included a public meeting and surf movie social.

Chair **Mike Webb** recently spoke at the Parks department hearings to restore Titlow Estuary and not rebuild the pool. The decision was made in favor of restoration. The Chapter has also continued their beach cleanup efforts at Titlow into the winter months with two cleanups and will be branching out to Priest Point Park in Olympia for cleanups.

The **Portland Chapter** is moving into winter with their newly launched plastic “Ban the Bag” campaign in full stride. Most recently the Chapter issued a statement to Portland mayor Sam Adams’ policy staff and founded a coalition for the campaign through endorsements and sign-on opportunities from businesses to environmental groups within the Portland area.

Additionally the Snowrider Project is charging into the winter lining up its Tele-Tuesday events for the winter and hosting some killer movie premiers and fundraising for its Mt. Hood public service announcement project for mountain watershed awareness. Most recently, the Snowrider raffle fundraiser was a smashing success. “We raised some serious coin; no easy feat in this gloomy economy” says **Michael Halle** of Snowrider Project. Thanks to the following Snowrider volunteers: **Pete, EJ, Jocelyn** and **Matt**! And thanks to **Ralph** of CRAG law center for briefing the audience on the progress in negotiations with Mt. Hood Meadows over their expanded avalanche control program. Big thanks to event sponsors: The Mountain Shop, Solstice, Shuler Surfboards and Black Diamond!!

The **Newport Oregon Chapter** has been winding down from the summer and organizing for the winter season with some fresh new faces on the executive council. One of the most recent highlights was the SOLV Citizenship Award Banquets where the Newport Chapter received the Community Group Award! **Joe Haxel**, Chapter Chair and Oregon Field Coordinator **Charlie Plybon** received the award at the banquet attended by hundreds of high-profile individuals from across Oregon such as Senator Betsy Johnson, Secretary of State Kate Brown and the like.

This winter the Chapter will be mentoring another youth volunteer project with the Oregon Coast Aquarium, implementing new strategies for the Georgia Pacific Pulp Mill campaign, furthering its support for the marine reserve proposal off Cape Perpetua.

The newly-founded **Siuslaw Chapter** has been continuing their organizing efforts through strategic planning for 2009. Partnering with the Siuslaw Watershed Council, the Chapter will have their new Blue Water Task Force program launched for the winter season, testing areas around Florence currently not monitored through the State Beach Monitoring Program. The Chapter’s community and ocean policy stake hold recently ramped up when the Ocean Policy Advisory Council met in their community (Florence) just prior to the

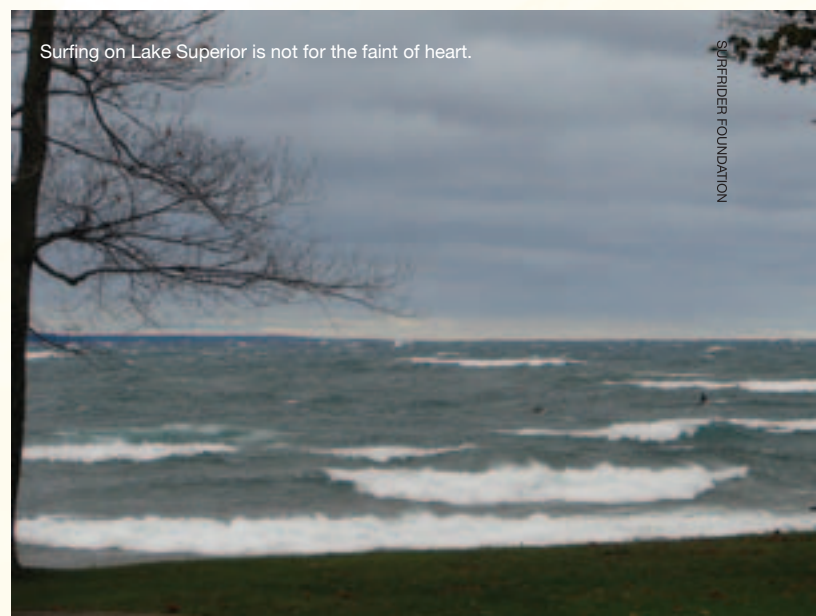
Heceta Head Conference. Chapter members and activists turned out by the dozens for testimony in support of the marine reserve proposal off Cape Perpetua, helping to even the playing field for a heated council meeting.

Curry county organizers, volunteers and members in Port Orford recently helped support a marine reserve proposal from our partners at the Port Orford Ocean Resource Team (POORT). The proposal includes the Redfish Rocks Research Reserve, encompassing a marine reserve and marine protected area, which POORT is recommending for pilot designation in the 2009-2011 biennium. The proposal is designed to help meet the ecological and socioeconomic objectives of the Port Orford Community Stewardship Area. After only two organizing meetings led by activist **Dave Lacey**, the **Curry County Organizers** are prepped for winter with a great line up of programs and new opportunities including the continuation of the Blue Water Task Force (BWTF) Program at Pacific High School, an invasive species removal project at Hubbard’s Creek and Humbug Mountain, and heightening stormwater protection through a best management practices campaign within the city of Port Orford.

Supported through the work of the **Portland Chapter’s** BWTF lab at Astoria High School, volunteers and members from the communities of Arch Cape to Astoria have been actively organizing and working to promote awareness of water quality issues facing their communities and local beaches. Lead activist **Michael Manzulli** has been leading the charge with **Katie Sokolowski** on water quality issues in the Cannon Beach and Seaside areas while **Tim Roth** continues to guide the students through the lab work at the school.

#### MIDWEST

The new **Lake Michigan Chapter (LMC)** is not just making waves; they are testing them! Local scientist and surfer **Matt Cooper** has been testing the Grand Haven surf breaks since Labor Day, 2008 to determine and publicize the levels of *E. Coli* and other nasty bugs. The LMC has also made waves by raising over \$2,000 through the Chapter’s efforts in 2008. Chapter Chairperson and filmmaker **Vince Deur** has been working on the “eco-warrior” project, which is a documentary that will be featured on “First Hand” on Fuel TV. Lake Michigan surfer/attorney **Mike Risko** and **Matt Cooper** testified at the State Capitol in front of a legislative subcommittee in a successful effort to defeat a House bill that would have curtailed access to surf breaks throughout the State of Michigan. The LMC and **Ryan Gerard** (proprietor of the Third Coast Surf Shop) have also been working to prevent efforts by a yacht club to limit access to a popular Lake Michigan beach. Finally, Chairperson Deur recently attended a meeting with the Chicago Parks Division, along with several Chicago-area surfers, in an effort to convince the city to relax its current laws, which make it illegal to surf on any of Chicago’s beaches. Surfing is not a crime!



Surfing on Lake Superior is not for the faint of heart.

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## EAST COAST

Chapters from Massachusetts to South Carolina converged on Virginia Beach for the East Coast Conference, 2008. Activists heard first hand about our Rise Above Plastics program from **Ximena Waissbluth** and learned more about the Liquid Natural Gas issue from **Mara Dias** and NYC Chapter Chair **Chris Wade**. Skills were also sharpened by a great team from Global HQ. Northeast Regional Manager, **John Weber** led some hands-on campaign planning exercises, then it was time for some fun. **Ari Lawrence** and the Virginia Beach Chapter threw a stylish party with food, cocktails, some longboard eye candy, and a classic surf film all within the splendor of the historic Cavalier Hotel.

The State of Massachusetts passed the MA Oceans Act earlier this year, which is a first-in-the-nation effort to develop a comprehensive ocean management plan. The idea is to use science-based planning for the long-term protection and sustainable use of the wide variety of ocean resources. A year-long series of public input “listening sessions” are underway, and the **Massachusetts Chapter** jumped right in and testified to Surfrider Foundation’s specific user groups concerns. As a result, the state has taken a keen interest in Surfrider’s views as a unique stakeholder.

The hardy souls of Massachusetts waited until late November to have a “Paddle and Plunge” to raise money and awareness for the Rise Above Plastics campaign. About 50 people came out to Cape Cod’s Craigville Beach to symbolically and literally jump right in and think about cutting back on single-use plastics. Retail member Naukabout apparel company, and Beanstock coffee roasters helped organize the event and provided warm clothes and warm drinks post plunge.

The **New York City (NYC) Chapter** and the **Central Long Island Chapter** have been working together to defeat plans for offshore LNG (Liquid Natural Gas) facilities. Chapter member **Justin Martinich** spoke to the Long Beach City Council and Chapter leaders made a public presentation in the Long Beach Library. Meanwhile, **Central LI Chapter’s Katie Lawrence** and **DD Halpern** joined NYC members tabling at the NY Surf Film Festival and got petition signatures against offshore LNG.

The NYC Chapter also found time for a good old-fashioned beach clean up in Rockaway. **Suzie House** helped get the twenty-seven volunteers there for the American Littoral Society’s annual coastal cleanup. This entry-level volunteer activity helps identify activists and paves the way to greater Chapter involvement.

The **Eastern Long Island Chapter** elected new leaders with co-chairs **Gene Gentile** and **Claire Pertilion**, as well as **Hayley Gordon** as Secretary. **Jay Fruin** remains in his position as vice-chair, **Mick Hargreaves** as volunteer coordinator, and **Steve Matzen** as treasurer. **Bill Lucey** and **Brian Luckey** will handle the Chapter’s events. Many thanks to **Tom Naro**, **Jay Levine**, and **Mara Dias** who ably guided the Chapter for the last three years through some tough campaigns.

The **Jersey Shore Chapter** thinks the Army Corps of Engineers should test sand for chemical contaminants and fecal bacteria before putting it on a beach in a dredge and fill project. In fact, the Chapter was willing to go to court over it. With the pro-bono help of the McDermott, Will, and Emery law firm they asked a federal judge to issue a temporary restraining order, TRO, to stop the fill so testing could be done. Unfortunately the judge did not grant the TRO, but the

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The Anti Litter Campaign was enacted in response to growing public pressure, instigated by Surfrider Foundation, to deal with massive amounts of litter polluting Miami’s public beaches on an almost daily basis.

Chapter may still proceed with the lawsuit and ask for different relief.

Congratulations to **John Weber** and his wife **Bridget** who welcomed our newest Surfrider Foundation activist **Hans Thomas** to the fold.

The **South Florida Chapter** teamed up with the City Of Miami Beach on November 8th, 9th, 15th, and 16th to carry out an Anti Litter campaign initiated by Miami Beach City Commissioner Jerry Libbin. The Anti Litter Campaign was enacted in response to growing public pressure, instigated by Surfrider Foundation, to deal with massive amounts of litter polluting Miami’s public beaches on an almost daily basis. The campaign organizers include our current chairperson, **Shane Close**, and executive members **Wyatt Porter-Brown**, **Robert Yunk**, **Karen Monteguado** and **Greg Gordon**. Special thanks to all our wonderful and dedicated Chapter volunteers: **Karen Exelbert**, **Mario Gomez**, **Michael Laas**, **Robert Lyons**, **Luis Lozada**, **Josue Cruz**, **Mario Perdomo** and many more.

## THE ISLANDS

On December 12th the **Oahu Chapter** launched its Rise Above Plastics campaign and hosted a beach cleanup with several other local environmental groups at Ala Moana Park, right across from the Magic Island parking lot. The Oahu Chapter is working with a coalition of other environmental partners to make people aware of the prevalence of plastic marine debris, reduce the use of single-use plastics (i.e, bags and water bottles) and to promote a more sustainable lifestyle in Hawaii. Co-sponsors of the beach cleanup include: Styrophobia, Muumuu Heaven, Stop Styrofoam Hawaii, Sierra Club and Kokua Hawaii.

The Surfrider Foundation began the initial outreach for its Rise Above Plastics (RAP) program in summer 2008 as part of Jack Johnson’s All At Once tour.

“People are ready to make behavioral changes that benefit our environment,” says Kim Johnson, who along with her husband Jack, helped in the planning and launch of Surfrider’s RAP program. “Simple choices such as utilizing reusable tote bags and water bottles make a big difference in helping to reduce the amount of plastics in our marine environments.” [www.riseaboveplastics.org](http://www.riseaboveplastics.org)



Are you hungry for more Surfrider Foundation news? Well then check out our weekly e-news “Soup.” It’s filled to the brim with hot Surfrider, environmental and ocean-related news. Just enter your e-mail address and zip code on our home page (in the upper left-hand corner): [www.surfrider.org](http://www.surfrider.org)



# ENERGY & THE OCEAN

By Chad Nelsen

Last summer, when gas prices neared \$5 per gallon and “Drill, Baby Drill” became a campaign slogan, Americans were reawakened to our dangerous and dependent energy policies. Not since the 1970s had energy issues been so prominent in the public consciousness. Once again it became glaringly obvious that we are not only overly dependent on climate-warming fossil fuels, but also that we get much of that petroleum from foreign countries—not all of whom are friendly.

A quick check of the facts in combination with the staggering drop in oil prices last fall, demonstrated the futility of offshore drilling as a means of solving our energy crisis. Offshore drilling would only account for 3% of the world’s oil supply

This summer’s gas price bubble reminded us that now is the time to invest in alternative energy sources that will reduce emissions of greenhouse gases while providing domestic sources of energy, spurring innovation and creating jobs.

As Surfrider Foundation’s policy on climate change acknowledges, increased warming of the Earth’s atmosphere will be felt severely at our coasts. Impacts range from increased coastal erosion and flooding, increased severity of storms, loss of wetlands, acidification of the oceans and threats to coral reefs. The key element to turning around global climate change is to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels for energy.

When looking into our energy sources, it is important to understand that we have two primary energy uses that come from different sources. One major energy use

is transportation (cars, shipping, trains, airplanes, etc.). Transportation is powered almost exclusively on petroleum. The other major energy use is electricity to power our houses, office buildings, etc. Electricity has traditionally derived from a mix of sources including coal, hydroelectric, nuclear and natural gas.

The move to electric-powered transportation will alter this balance and increase our electricity needs while decreasing our petroleum needs (unless we start using more petroleum to generate electricity).

There are a number of new alternative energy sources that are being developed that are designed to tap into natural energy along the coasts and in the oceans to create electricity. These include wind, tidal, wave and current energy. All of these sources hold the promise of creating domestically-available renewable and clean energy that could also support economic development along the coasts. However, there are many questions and concerns about ocean energy, including potential impacts to ocean recreation, nearshore ecology, coastal processes, public safety, aesthetics, and fishing access.

The conflict between supporting clean, renewable energy sources and working to protect the coast from potential impacts presents us with a challenge. It would be easy to succumb to a “Not In My Back Yard” (NIMBY) mentality and just say no to these projects. But by saying no to these projects we are inherently saying yes to some other source of energy that may have negative global ramifications (e.g. coal). The question remains, how can we

support clean energy sources along the coasts while minimizing their impacts to our oceans, waves and beaches.

We believe the answer is to constructively participate in project planning and to promote a set of “best practices” to ensure that these impacts are minimized to the full extent possible

In this series, we will explore efforts to open new areas to offshore drilling and innovative technologies such as wave energy, wind power, tidal and current energy. We will describe how they work, what the state of the technology is, and how they may impact the coast.

*Chad is Surfrider Foundation’s Environmental Director.*

We hope you will join this conversation on our blogs:

Oil Drilling Blog: [www.nottheanswer.org](http://www.nottheanswer.org)  
Wave Energy Blog: [www.surfrider.org/waveenergy](http://www.surfrider.org/waveenergy)

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**“... by saying no to these projects we are inherently saying yes to some other source of energy that may have negative global ramifications (e.g. coal).”**



# THIRD ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

By Lia Colabello



Over 50 Surfrider Foundation volunteer leaders from around the world met at the 2008 Surfrider Foundation International Conference from October 24-27, 2008. It was hosted by Surfrider Foundation Brazil in the popular coastal community of Búzios, outside of Rio de Janeiro. Attendees from Asia, the



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Americas and Europe discussed Chapter leadership ideas, fundraising and membership recruitment techniques, campaign planning strategies, technology tools and Rise Above Plastics initiatives.

The multicultural, peer-driven presentations and dialogue provided an opportunity to share the many resources that have been developed across Surfrider Foundation's global network. Participants learned about activities that could be integrated into Chapter and affiliate practices anywhere in the world. These included Initiatives Oceanes, International Surfing Day, Rise Above Plastics, and Chemical Surfer water-quality campaign materials, among others.

There was no slowing down on idea sharing. Discussions continued outside the meeting room—on the beach, in the water and during excursions into town. In the evening, after dining at one of Búzios' popular restaurants, everyone would return to the home of one of the conference organizers and continue the day's dialogue far into the night. Special thanks to Surfrider Foundation Brasil, The Munson Foundation, and The Ocean Foundation for making the 2008 International Conference possible.

In 2009, the International Conference will be held October 1-4 in the beautiful town of Tofino, Canada's premier surf destination. Steeped in environmental tradition and once famous as the epicenter of the Clayoquot Sound protests, Surfrider Foundation Chapter leaders are invited to experience the rugged Canadian Coastline and continue our global conversation on protecting and preserving places such as this. Please contact Lia Colabello, the Director of Global Relations, at [lia@surfrider.org](mailto:lia@surfrider.org) to learn more.

Surfrider Foundation wishes to thank legendary musician Brian Wilson, renowned surfboard shaper Robert August, Capitol Records / EMI, and auction winner David McAleer for raising awareness and funds through the auction of this custom August surfboard featuring artwork from Brian's new album and DVD, *That Lucky Old Sun*.



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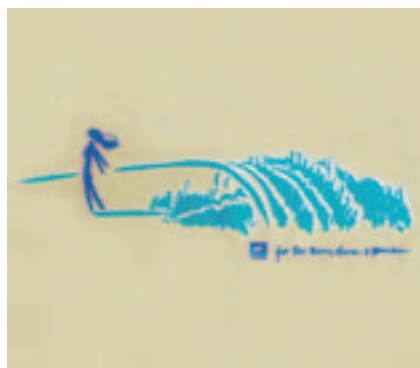
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